

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-14 are pending in this application. Claims 8, 11, and 12 have been amended to adopt the Examiner's suggestions as to clarifying the nature thereof without the introduction of any new matter.

The specification has been amended to insert the heading suggested by the Examiner as well as other commonly used headings. In addition, the objected to second occurrences of "with" and "be" have been removed and the single paragraph new abstract added by the preliminary amendment filed April 8, 2002, has been made shorter than 150 words, all without the introduction of any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action includes an objection to the Abstract as being more than one paragraph of 150 words, an objection to the omission of a heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS" from the specification, objections to pages 1 and 2 of the specification for including double recitals of "with" and "be," respectively, an objection to informalities in Claims 8 and 11, and a rejection of claims 11 and 12 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter as to Claims 8-14 based upon the objections to Claims 8 and 11 being overcome as well as overcoming the rejection of Claims 11 and 12 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Turning first to the objections raised as to the specification including the abstract, it is believed that the insertion of the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL

VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS” before the paragraph beginning at page 3, numbered line 3, of the specification should overcome the objection made as to the lack of this heading in the specification. As noted above, other standard headings were also included.

With respect to the objections to the double recitation of “with” at page 1, line 17, and the double recitation of “be” at page 2, line 30, the present amendment to the paragraphs containing these double recitations to eliminate the second occurrences as suggested in the outstanding Action is believed sufficient to overcome them.

With further regard to the objection to the abstract, it is noted that it was previously amended to be a single paragraph by the preliminary amendment filed April 8, 2002. As this amended single paragraph Abstract was slightly longer than the noted 150 word limit, the present amendment shortens this single paragraph Abstract to well under the 150 word limit.

Turning to the objections made as to Claims 8 and 11, the adoption by the present amendment of the cures noted in the outstanding Action as to changing “this” in Claim 8 to -- the -- and inserting -- is -- after the word “metal” are believed to also be sufficient to correct Claims 8 and 11 so as to overcome these objections thereto.

Similarly, the elimination of the redundant “or” from Claim 11 and the adoption of the word change for Claim 12 suggested in the outstanding Action are believed sufficient to overcome the rejection of Claims 11 and 12 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

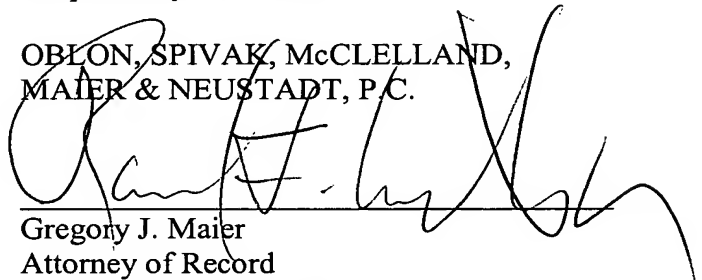
If the Examiner believes that further formal changes are required, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants’ representatives at the below-noted telephone number so that mutually agreeable changes can be determined.

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Reply to Office Action dated May 26, 2004

As no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, it is believed that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gregory J. Maier, is written over a horizontal line.

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